

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, despite the fact that we face persistent unemployment and slow economic growth, Republicans would rather waste time with debt ceiling disapproval resolutions and risk default again than come up with real answers to our most pressing problems. Democrats want to pass the American Jobs Act right now to get people back to work. We want to offer payroll tax breaks to small businesses that create jobs, not continue corporate welfare to major oil companies. We want to create infrastructure banks to repair and rebuild our communities, not delay these highway projects to score political points.

Monday, in Politico, a senior Republican aide was quoted as saying he "didn't want to hand Obama a win" on jobs legislation. It's clear that Republicans care more about beating the President than beating unemployment. The jobless of this country cannot wait another 14 months. Pass the American Jobs Act today.

COMMONSENSE SOLUTIONS FOR JOBS

(Mr. FLORES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, our country is facing record deficits, high unemployment, and stagnant economic growth. Yet President Obama is doubling down on the triple threat of taxation, regulation, and spending that is crushing job growth. This week, the President has been touting his so-called "jobs plan." But his detrimental policies have forced a power generation company in Texas to close five facilities and sacrifice 500 middle class jobs. The impact of this EPA shutdown will reduce generating capacity in Texas by 1,300 megawatts, a move which the Electric Reliability Council of Texas says could spur future power outages.

These regulations hurt middle class jobs and harm electric reliability in Texas with no scientific evidence that power generation in Texas is causing nonattainment of clear air standards in other States. Not only are this administration's disastrous policies preventing future job creation; they're destroying existing jobs. Instead of proposing the same failed idea that Washington can create jobs, we need to get Washington out of the way and rely on commonsense Main Street solutions that put Americans back to work.

NASA ANNOUNCEMENT ON SLS

(Mr. PALAZZO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, this morning, NASA announced the design of a new space launch system which will be the basis for future exploration beyond low Earth orbit. It is a critical step, but one among many we need to take. Although I am pleased this deci-

sion was made, it is long overdue since it was mandated by the NASA authorization bill passed in the last Congress. This announcement combines existing technologies while enabling new ones, all the while attempting to maintain the most skilled and dedicated workforce in existence in human space flight. NASA's plan still lacks the destination focus I would like to see, and we must be diligent in keeping costs manageable, especially in these difficult economic times. But the investment in our Nation's space program enables men and women like those at the Stennis Space Center to do what they do best—test rocket engines for space flight.

America is the leader in human space flight. Today's decision helps continue that leadership role.

□ 1220

DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL

(Mr. SIRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, 2 weeks ago, Hurricane Irene ravaged the east coast, including the State of New Jersey. Earlier this year, tornados leveled parts of the Midwest, and now Texas is experiencing one of the worst wildfires in its history. Furthermore, on the heels of Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee hit New Jersey, causing more damage and forcing more people from their homes. Homes have been destroyed, businesses are suffering, and many areas are still covered in water.

While many major disaster declarations have been made, the availability of Federal assistance remains uncertain. Today, I rise to ask my colleagues to work in a bipartisan manner to immediately pass emergency disaster relief legislation to support recovery efforts. Communities across the country have witnessed unthinkable destruction and endured great loss, and it is the Federal Government's responsibility to replenish the Disaster Relief Fund to ensure that these communities receive help in their time of need.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting supplemental disaster relief. We must come together now to provide disaster assistance to these devastated areas.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOBS BILL

(Mr. SOUTHERLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOUTHERLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great disappointment in the President's most recent proposed bill to create jobs. I was hopeful that the President would offer a commonsense, pro-growth agenda. Unfortunately, the House continues to stand ready without a proposal that is acceptable.

But this administration continues to offer the same tired, Big Government

proposals. One example is the section that creates, in 17 pages, a wholly government-owned corporation—that's right, government-owned corporation—complete with a chief financial officer, chief risk officer, chief compliance officer, chief operations officer, chief lending officer, general counsel, board of directors, and billions of dollars in new taxpayer money.

It appears once again that this administration is more focused on growing government than it is on growing jobs.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker and Members, jobs are the issue, and the American Jobs Act is the solution that this House should consider on the floor immediately. This bill will help reverse the flow of jobs overseas and will help rebuild the manufacturing base in America, providing good jobs for hardworking Americans.

Make It In America creates jobs in America. This bill builds America. The long-term FAA reauthorization will create 150,000 jobs, and reauthorizing the surface transportation bill will support 134,000 projects around the country, 5,000 mass transit projects, and nearly 1 million jobs over the next year. The national infrastructure bank proposal would combine public and private resources to build, rebuild, and repair the country's key infrastructure.

This bill also helps create jobs through the Tax Code. The proposal cuts the payroll tax in half for 98 percent of businesses on their first \$5 million in payroll; it offers a \$4,000 tax credit to employers for hiring long-term unemployed workers—get them on the tax rolls and not on the unemployment rolls—and it starts a "Returning Heroes" hiring tax credit, between \$5,600 and \$9,600 for firms that hire unemployed veterans.

We have the responsibility to help our country climb out of this tough economy, and this bill is a proposal that deserves bipartisan support to help accomplish that.

REGULATIONS DON'T CREATE JOBS

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the chorus of Americans asking Washington to stop damaging the economy with job-killing regulations. Small businesses don't thrive when they're hit with additional burdens from the Federal Government.

As unbelievable as it sounds, some in this body actually believe that new regulations create jobs because they force businesses to hire people to comply with the new mandates. Madam

Speaker, this defies common sense. And that's why I am introducing two bills: one which would pause all new regulations for a year so that businesses would know the rules they are to live under, and another that would require Federal regulators to analyze the impact of their new rules on jobs and to find the least costly alternative for each new business mandate.

Madam Speaker, let's come together and agree that regulations don't create jobs. And let's pass commonsense legislation to get America working again.

THE URGENT NEED FOR JOB CREATION IN AMERICA

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the urgent need to create jobs in America.

Millions of Americans have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, and finding a job now is as hard as it has been in generations. Our country needs decisive action, and we need it now.

Earlier this week, the President submitted the American Jobs Act to Congress, and I ask my colleagues in both parties to put partisanship aside and work together to create jobs our country desperately needs. Many of the proposals included in the American Jobs Act enjoy bipartisan support, and I call on Speaker BOEHNER and Leader CANTOR to work together in good faith to bring forward good jobs proposals from both parties to Congress.

We won't have an economic recovery without putting people back to work.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, too many people in America are out of work, and as the President said in his speech last week, too many people are living day to day, paycheck to paycheck, struggling to find work. That is why we need to pass the American Jobs Act now.

A consequence of such high unemployment is poverty. Yesterday, the Census Bureau reported that our country's poverty rate last year was an astonishing 15.1 percent, the highest it has been in almost two decades. With 22 percent of our children living in poverty, this report makes clear who has borne the brunt of our country's economic woes.

I believe that all of my colleagues share a strong love of this Nation and its children, but in order for them to succeed, we must ensure that they have access to health care, housing, modern classrooms, and qualified teachers. We must also put their parents on a path back to work.

Madam Speaker, it is a travesty to have even one child living in poverty in this country, let alone one in five of

our children. It is also unconscionable to allow our actions, or inactions, to affect their future prosperity. Let's work together in a bipartisan way now to pass the American Jobs Act today.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 352

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, 53 years ago, China declared ownership of the islands in the Eastern Sea, which include the Spratly and the Paracel Islands.

On September 14, 1958, then-Prime Minister Pham Van Dong of North Vietnam issued a diplomatic note affirming the declaration from China regarding the Chinese ownership of those islands. When this decision became known, Vietnamese students and bloggers organized unprecedented protests in Hanoi and in Saigon against China's violations of Vietnam's sovereignty in the Eastern Sea. The Vietnamese security police were ordered to end the public demonstrations regarding the issue of the Spratly and Paracel Islands and detained over 40 activists who were involved in this protest.

Since early August of this year, at least 13 young patriots have been arrested by police and the Ministry of Public Security in Vietnam, and several of these activists are prominent bloggers, such as the Vinh Diocese of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, for this same issue.

As a cosponsor of House Resolution 352, I call for a framework in accordance with the United States Convention on the Law of the Sea for a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

Furthermore, I urge the Vietnamese Government to unconditionally release all advocates who were exercising their rights as citizens to call for social justice and protesting the sovereignty of Vietnamese territories from China.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, as I traveled throughout my district these last few weeks, one issue dominated all conversations—jobs.

As my colleagues on the other side created the default crisis this summer, the American people threw up their hands in disgust and dismay, and I don't blame them. Our constituents know the number one issue facing this country is jobs, and they know this Congress must take concrete actions to grow our economy, and it must take them now.

The good news is we have a plan. The American Jobs Act is a commonsense, bipartisan plan to put Americans back to work and strengthen our economy.

It keeps teachers in the classrooms and cops and firefighters on our streets. It rebuilds our crumbling roads and bridges, modernizes our schools, and rehabilitates our neighborhoods. It cuts taxes for small businesses, workers and their families.

The time for political games—which are costing jobs and creating economic uncertainty—has passed. I urge the House leadership, help us pass the American Jobs Act, and let's pass it now.

□ 1230

AMERICANS LIVING IN POVERTY

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, today we learned that 46 million Americans are living in poverty. More people are suffering economically than at any time since the Great Depression. But we learned from an excellent article by Scott Lilly of the Center for American Progress that history may be repeating itself.

In 1937, conservative Republicans succeeded in virtually eliminating the Federal jobs programs of the New Deal, so as to eliminate the Federal deficit. But the results were catastrophic to America's economy and society. Half of the 8 million jobs that had been created by the New Deal were lost, and unemployment went over 19 percent.

Economists generally classified the economic reversal in 1937 and 1938 as a second depression. Not until military spending began to revive activity in 1940 did unemployment again drop to less than 15 percent.

That was a long and painful experience. It would be tragic if we permitted the new conservative crowd in Washington to repeat it by killing President Obama's jobs act and sending us back into a double-dip recession.

Those who don't learn from the past are doomed to repeat it.

JOBS IN AMERICA

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the all-important issue of jobs in America.

As I travel around my district, I frequently hear discussions about jobs. But more importantly, I hear discussions about jobs that have gone unfilled. In my district alone, that is 2,600 jobs. In America it is 3.2 million jobs that are ready to be filled today.

We must come together, as Members of Congress, to provide assistance that helps us train people, relocate them, or do whatever is necessary to bring people to jobs; 3.2 million people back to work, that's significant. I hope that my colleagues in Congress will work with me to put 3.2 million Americans back to work.